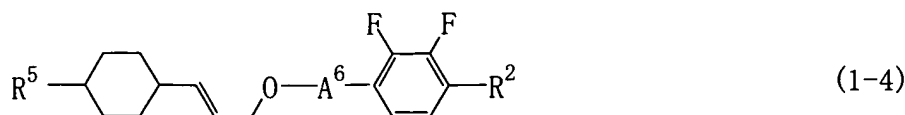
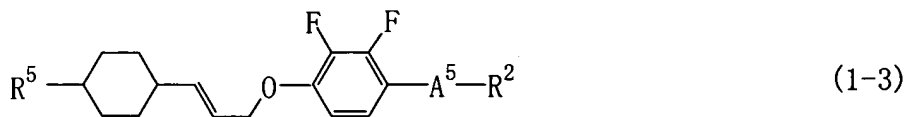
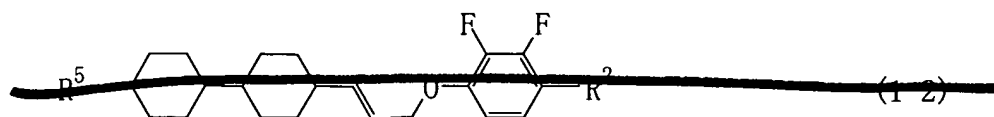
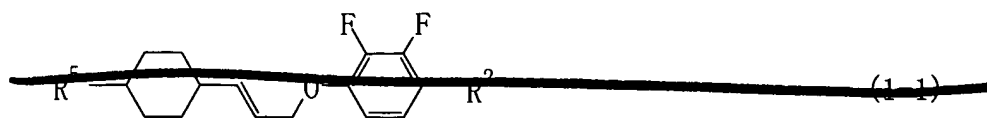


Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal composition having a negative dielectric anisotropy, which ~~comprising~~ comprises at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by Formulas (1-1), (1-2), (1-3) and (1-4) as a first component:



wherein R⁵ is alkyl or alkenyl; R² is alkyl or alkoxy; A⁵ is 1,4-phenylene or 2-fluoro-1,4-phenylene; and A⁶ is 1,4-phenylene, 2-fluoro-1,4-phenylene or 2,3-difluoro-1,4-phenylene.

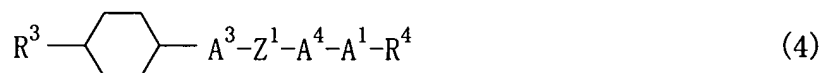
2. (Currently amended) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein in Formulas (1-1), (1-2), (1-3) and (1-4), R⁵ is alkyl, and A⁵ and A⁶ are 1,4-phenylene.

3. (Cancel)

4. (Original) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, wherein the first component is in the range from 30% to 80% by weight, wherein the range is based on the total weight of the liquid crystal composition.

5. (Cancel)

6. (Currently amended) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 1, ~~wherein it~~ which further comprises at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by Formulas (2), (3) and (4) as a second component:



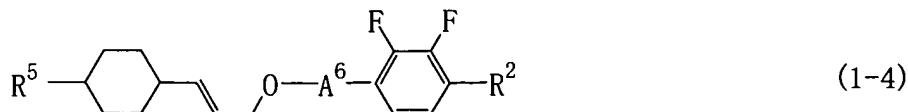
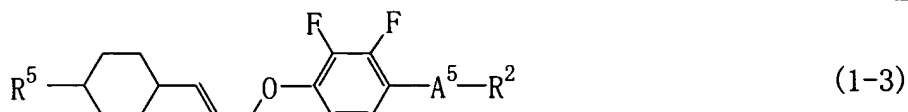
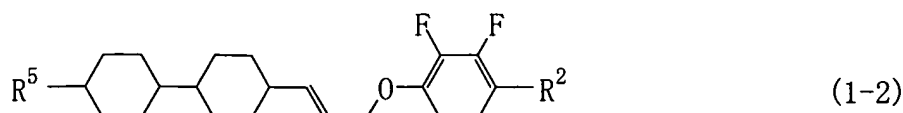
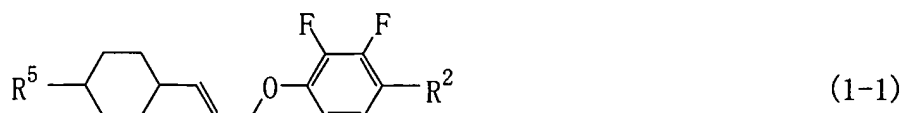
wherein R^3 and R^4 are independently alkyl, alkoxy, alkoxymethyl, ~~$-\text{COOR}^1$~~ , ~~$-\text{COO}-\text{R}^1$~~ , alkenyl or alkenyl in which any hydrogen is replaced by fluorine; R^1 is alkyl; A^1 and A^2 are independently 1,4-cyclohexylene or 1,4-phenylene; A^3 and A^4 are independently 1,4-cyclohexylene, 1,4-phenylene or 2-fluoro-1,4-phenylene; and Z^1 is a single bond, $-(\text{CH}_2)_2-$, $-\text{COO}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$.

7-8. (Cancel)

9. (Original) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 6, wherein the second component is in the range from 20% to 70% by weight, wherein the range is based on the total weight of the liquid crystal composition.

10-11. (Cancel)

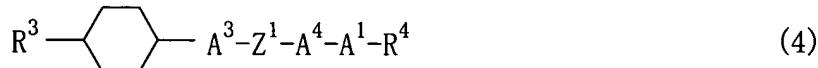
12. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A liquid crystal composition according to claim 6;
~~wherein it further having a negative dielectric anisotropy, which~~ comprises at least one
compound selected from the group of compounds represented by Formulas (1-1), (1-2),
(1-3) and (1-4) as a first component, at least one compound selected from the group of
compounds represented by Formulas (2), (3) and (4) as a second component, and at least
one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by Formula (5) as a
third component:



wherein R⁵ is alkyl or alkenyl; R² is alkyl or alkoxy;

A⁵ is 1,4-phenylene or 2-fluoro-1,4-phenylene; and

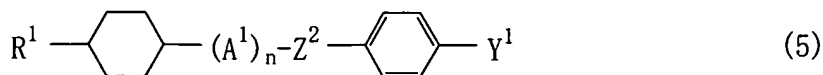
A⁶ is 1,4-phenylene, 2-fluoro-1,4-phenylene or 2,3- difluoro-1,4-phenylene.



wherein R^3 and R^4 are independently alkyl, alkoxy, alkoxymethyl, $-\text{COO}-R^1$, alkenyl or alkenyl in which any hydrogen is replaced by fluorine;

R^1 is alkyl; A^1 and A^2 are independently 1,4-cyclohexylene or 1,4-phenylene;

A^3 and A^4 are independently 1,4-cyclohexylene, 1,4-phenylene or 2-fluoro-1,4-phenylene; and Z^1 is a single bond, $-(\text{CH}_2)_2-$, $-\text{COO}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$,



wherein R^1 is alkyl; A^1 is 1,4-cyclohexylene or 1,4-phenylene; Z^2 is a single bond or $-\text{COO}-$; Y^1 is fluorine or chlorine; and n is 0 or 1.

13-14. (Cancel)

15. (Currently amended) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 12, wherein the first component is in the range from 30% to 80% by weight, the second component is in the range from 20% to 70% by weight, and the third component is in the range from 3% to 20% by weight, wherein the ~~range is~~ ranges are based on the total weight of the liquid crystal composition.

16-20. (Cancel)

21. (Previously presented) A liquid crystal display element comprising the liquid crystal composition according to claim 1.

22. (Previously presented) A liquid crystal display element comprising the liquid crystal composition according to claim 2.

23. (Cancel)

24. (Previously presented) A liquid crystal display element comprising the liquid crystal composition according to claim 4.

25. (Cancel)

26. (Previously presented) A liquid crystal display element comprising the liquid crystal composition according to claim 6.

27-28. (Cancel)

29. (Previously presented) A liquid crystal display element comprising the liquid crystal composition according to claim 9.

30-31. (Cancel)

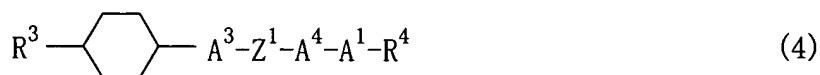
32. (Previously presented) A liquid crystal display element comprising the liquid crystal composition according to claim 12.

33-34. (Cancel)

35. (Previously presented) A liquid crystal display element comprising the liquid crystal composition according to claim 15.

36-40. (Cancel)

41. (New) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 4, which further comprises at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by Formulas (2), (3) and (4) as a second component:

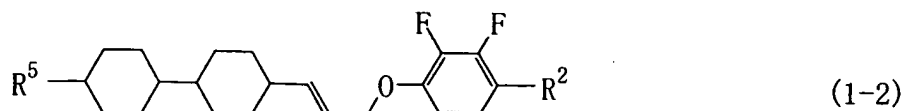
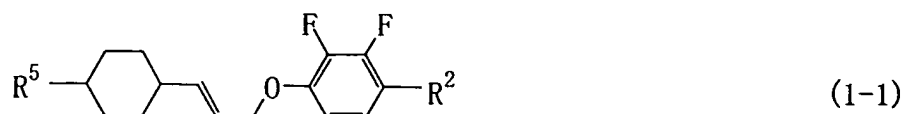


wherein R^3 and R^4 are independently alkyl, alkoxy, alkoxymethyl, $-\text{COO}-R^1$, alkenyl or alkenyl in which any hydrogen is replaced by fluorine; R^1 is alkyl; A^1 and A^2 are independently 1,4-cyclohexylene or 1,4-phenylene; A^3 and A^4 are independently 1,4-cyclohexylene, 1,4-phenylene or 2-fluoro-1,4-phenylene; and Z^1 is a single bond, $-(\text{CH}_2)_2-$, $-\text{COO}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$.

42. (New) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 41, wherein the second component is in the range from 20% to 70% by weight, wherein the range is based on the total weight of the liquid crystal composition.

43. (New) A liquid crystal composition having a negative dielectric anisotropy, which comprises at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by Formula (1-1), and at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by Formula (1-2) as a first component, and at least one

compound selected from the group of compounds represented by Formula (2) as a second component:



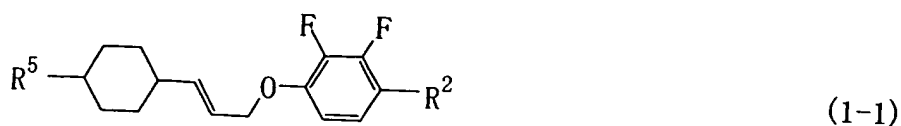
wherein R^5 is alkyl or alkenyl; and R^2 is alkyl or alkoxy,



wherein R^3 and R^4 are independently alkyl, alkoxy, alkoxymethyl, $-\text{COO}-R^1$, alkenyl or alkenyl in which any hydrogen is replaced by fluorine; R^1 is alkyl; A^1 is 1,4-cyclohexylene or 1,4-phenylene; and Z^1 is a single bond, $-(\text{CH}_2)_2-$, $-\text{COO}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$.

44. (New) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 43, wherein the first component is in the range from 30% to 80% by weight, and the second component is in the range from 20% to 70% by weight, wherein the ranges are based on the total weight of the liquid crystal composition.

45. (New) A liquid crystal composition having a negative dielectric anisotropy, which comprises at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by Formula (1-1), and at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by Formula (1-2) as a first component, and at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by Formula (2), and at least one compound selected from the group of compounds represented by Formula (3) as a second component:



wherein R^5 is alkyl or alkenyl; and R^2 is alkyl or alkoxy,



wherein R^3 and R^4 are independently alkyl, alkoxy, alkoxymethyl, $-\text{COO}-\text{R}^1$, alkenyl or alkenyl in which any hydrogen is replaced by fluorine; R^1 is alkyl; A^1 and A^2 are independently 1,4-cyclohexylene or 1,4-phenylene; and Z^1 is a single bond, $-(\text{CH}_2)_2-$, $-\text{COO}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$.

46. (New) The liquid crystal composition according to claim 45, wherein the first component is in the range from 30% to 80% by weight, and the second component is in the range from 20% to 70% by weight, wherein the ranges are based on the total weight of the liquid crystal composition.

47. (New) A liquid crystal display element comprising the liquid crystal composition according to claim 41.

48. (New) A liquid crystal display element comprising the liquid crystal composition according to claim 42.

49. (New) A liquid crystal display element comprising the liquid crystal composition according to claim 43.

50. (New) A liquid crystal display element comprising the liquid crystal composition according to claim 44.

51. (New) A liquid crystal display element comprising the liquid crystal composition according to claim 45.

52. (New) A liquid crystal display element comprising the liquid crystal composition according to claim 46.